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**BILL NO.: SB 306**

**TITLE:** Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program – Climate, Equity, and Administrative Provisions

**SPONSOR:** Chairman Feldman – By Request of the Critical Areas Commission

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** Senate Bill 306 – Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Protection Program – Climate, Equity, and Administrative Provisions. This legislation modernizes the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program and requires the integration of climate change considerations, shoreline resilience, and environmental equity into local plans and decision-making.

The impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and higher rates of precipitation, are already being experienced by many communities in Maryland. This is especially true for communities closest to tidal waters, and historically underserved communities which often suffer from disproportionate flooding, storm surge, and inadequate infrastructure. The Critical Areas has long focused on protecting waterway health and water quality from inappropriate development. SB306 will add to the Critical Areas Program goals to build resiliency and equity at the same time. Baltimore County supports amendments proposed by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) that add clarity and flexibility for Counties to update their local programs.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 306. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).